

Over the course of the three public stakeholder meetings, we had a total of 32 people in attendance (8-13 at each meeting), which is considerably fewer than were invited and had indicated their intent to participate. A full list of stakeholder types and groups invited for each meeting is given in Appendix A.

- 1) State agencies (e.g., State Parks, Trails Coordinators, Tourism, Forest Resources, NC Natural Heritage) - 4,
- 2) Federal agencies (e.g., U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service (Blue Ridge Parkway), U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (national wildlife refuges), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, military installations, Cherokee Indian Reservation) - 2,
- 3) Landowners (both industrial and nonindustrial as well as Farm Bureau officials) – 6,
- 4) Hunting groups (clubs, associations, DMAP) - 10,
- 5) Other recreational groups (e.g., NC Horse Council, Carolina Bird Club, Appalachian Trail Conservancy) - 3,
- 6) Conservation groups (e.g., Trout Unlimited, Audubon Society, Sierra Club, NC Wildlife Federation) - 3,
- 7) Religious organizations (e.g., Interfaith Alliance, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, NC Council of Churches) - 0, and
- 8) Economic interests (e.g. Chambers of Commerce, gun/pro shops, game preserves) - 1.

The agenda for each meeting (provided in Appendix A) was prepared in conjunction with the WRC. Objectives of the meetings were to 1) gather the qualitative information from stakeholder groups on hunting on Sunday 2) obtain guidance for the development of focus group agendas and survey instruments, 3) identify any additional stakeholder types and/or groups to be contacted for the focus groups. Qualitative information gathered during the stakeholder meetings (including both those conducted by the research team and the WRC) was not representative of all North Carolina hunters or North Carolina citizens in general. Information collected by the research team during stakeholder meetings and focus groups served to provide guidance for development of both the public and hunter surveys. Tallies of “votes” taken at the meetings conducted by the WRC indicated how many supporters (259) and opponents (122) of hunting on Sunday attended the meetings but they did not provide an objective, unbiased assessment of public opinion on the issue. Only the surveys provided objective, unbiased assessments of public and hunter opinions.

### *Issues of Concern*

Public Stakeholder participants were asked to brainstorm and then list on a flip chart the issues that they perceived to be associated with hunting on Sunday in North Carolina, both positive and negative. The following is a pooled listing of the issues raised at one or more meeting, paraphrased for clarity and to encompass the range of participant intentions. Items are presented in no particular order, and many have both positive and negative (and neutral) implications. The number of issues listed for or against hunting on Sunday is not a reflection of the strength of any one argument over another.

#### Recreational Issues:

- 1) Providing increased hunting opportunities for youth hunters and working public;  
Potential to retain and recruit more youth and other (especially working) hunters.